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# Royal Geographical Society.

1847.

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## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,

READ AT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING, 24TH MAY.

THE Council have to report that, since the last Anniversary Meeting, there have been elected 19 new Members. There have occurred 42 vacancies, of which 11 are by death, 20 by resignation, and 11 have been struck off for non-payment, and the Society now consists of 672 Members, besides 39 Foreign Honorary and 22 Corresponding Members.

*Finance.*—In pursuance of the resolution of the Special General Meeting of the 13th of May, 1846, “that the Journal be sold to Members,” the Council entered into an arrangement with Mr. Murray, the publisher, by which (on the understanding that a certain number of Members would purchase the Journal) he undertook to publish it for one year at his own risk, without any charge to the Society. Under this agreement, the two Parts forming Vol. XVI., have been published.

The subject of removing to more commodious and, at the same time, cheaper apartments, has also been fully considered by the Council at successive Meetings; but, after viewing several houses it was found impossible to obtain a suitable one, in such a situation as appeared desirable, at any reduction of rent which would justify the heavy expense necessarily consequent on a removal of the Society's property to any new abode.

In the month of September last the Librarian, Mr. J. Shillinglaw, having resigned his situation, the Council, at the suggestion of Colonel Jackson (who agreed to undertake the general superintendence of the books and maps without any increase of salary), determined on effecting a saving by abolishing the separate office of Librarian, and substituting a Clerk at a salary of 50*l.* a-year; a Porter and Housemaid being at the same time

appointed at a salary of 30*l.* a-year and lodging in the house, in the place of the messenger, who had received 10*s.* a-week. By this change a saving of 46*l.* a-year was effected.

On balancing the accounts at the close of the year, a deficiency (chiefly arising from the cost of publishing the *Journal* in 1845) was found, which rendered it necessary to provide 274*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* beyond the funds in hand. This the Council have done with much reluctance by selling from the funds of the Society 300*l.* Consols; but they felt it a more becoming course than to leave the debt to be liquidated by their successors. Every outstanding debt on the 1st of January was thus paid off, and a small balance kept in hand.

The sum of 200*l.*, the contribution of the Government and the East India Company towards aiding the late Mr. Brockman in his journey to Hadramaut, not having been applied to the purpose originally intended, the Council have directed it to be invested in the three per cent. Consols; this has been done, and stock to the amount of 224*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* purchased.

*Secretaries.*—In February Mr. Murray announced to the Council that he must decline to continue publishing the *Journal* on the terms agreed on. This heavy charge being thus again thrown upon the funds of the Society, it became necessary for the Council once more to consider the whole state of its finances, and Colonel Jackson, in the most handsome manner, offered to release the Council from any difficulty as regarded himself, by tendering his resignation of the offices of Secretary and Editor of the *Journal*: a Committee was appointed to consider the whole question, upon whose report it was resolved—

1. That both the Secretaries of the Society, Members of the Council according to the regulations, be henceforth Honorary Secretaries.
2. That an Assistant Secretary be appointed, at a salary not exceeding 150*l.* a-year, to perform the duties of the late Secretary and Editor.
3. That an advertisement to this effect be inserted in the ‘*Times*,’ ‘*Literary Gazette*,’ and ‘*Athenæum*.’
4. That the edition of the *Journal* be reduced from 1250 to 1000 copies, and that the volume do not exceed thirteen sheets.

5. That the Society revert to the old practice of gratuitous distribution, but that all Members be required to send to the Society for their copies, and that Members not applying within one year shall only be able to procure such copies through application to the Council.

The advertisement produced a large number of candidates, from amongst whom the Council have selected Dr. William Humble as the gentleman best qualified to perform the duties of that office.

The resignation of Colonel Jackson as Secretary and Editor has already been alluded to; and the Council regret to have also to announce that the Honorary Foreign Secretary, the Rev. G. C. Renouard, has again pressed upon them the tender of his resignation, which they felt they could no longer decline to accept. In each of these gentlemen the Society will lose a valuable and efficient officer. Mr. Renouard has for a long course of years given to the Society the gratuitous benefit of his great learning, especially in Oriental literature; and, under Colonel Jackson, the Journal has been most carefully edited, and published with the greatest punctuality; the accounts and correspondence of the Society have been kept with great regularity, and a general Index of the first ten volumes (forming itself a volume of 200 pages, executed entirely by himself, and gratuitously) has been published.

*Arrears.*—Although every exertion has been made to recover the arrears due to the Society, they amounted, on the 1st of January of the present year, to the sum of 440*l.* Of this sum a very small portion only has since been received; the collector, however, states that the subscriptions for the current year have been, for the most part, punctually paid.

*Royal Donation.*—Of the two gold medals, the donation of Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Patron's Medal has been awarded to Dr. Ludwig Leichardt, for his explorations in Australia, and especially for his journey from Moreton Bay to Port Essington; and the Founder's Medal to Captain Charles Sturt, for his discoveries in Australia, namely of the rivers Darling and Murray, and more especially for his journey in 1845-6, fixing the eastern limit of Lake Torrens, and penetrating into the heart of the continent to lat. 24° 30' S., long. 138° 0' E.

*Library.*—The accessions to the library since the last Anniversary Meeting consist of 344 books and pamphlets, 56 sheets of maps and charts, two atlases, several sketches and portraits, and a *fac-simile* of an ancient globe in the public library and museum of Frankfort-on-Maine.

In conclusion, the Council confidently trust that the efforts they have made to place the pecuniary affairs of the Society on a firm basis will, with the co-operation of the general body of the Society, secure its permanent prosperity and stability, and enable it fully to carry out the intentions of its founders; but it must not be disguised that to effect this desirable result the exertions of all must be united to increase the number of its Members, and to provide the funds still required to place its valuable collection of books and maps in that condition which a due regard to their preservation, and easy access by Members, still continues to demand.

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BALANCE-SHEET FOR 1846.

Dr.

Cr.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Balance in the Banker's hands on the 1st of January, 1846	3	16	2	Rent and Fixtures			197 14 9
of Petty Cash in the Secretary's hands	0	13	5	Salaries of Secretary, Editor, and Librarian			400 0 0
Entrance of 30 Members, at 3 <i>l</i> .	90	0	0	Collector's Wages			21 0 0
Compositions of 10 Members, at 17 <i>l</i> .	170	0	0	Messenger's Wages			26 0 0
Subscriptions of 239 Members, at 2 <i>l</i> .	478	0	0	Firing and Lights			26 6 0
Arrears paid up	96	0	0	Stationery			14 7 8
Overpaid and paid by mistake	3	13	0	Freight, Duty, Carriage of Parcels, Postages, &c.			49 19 4
Dividend on 2578 <i>l</i> . 4 <i>s</i> . 4 <i>d</i> . 3 <i>q</i> . per Cents. Reduced (Income Tax deducted)				Evening Meetings			14 14 5
Royal Premium	81	7	0	Insurance, Advertisements, and Power of Attorney			7 6 0
Journals sold	52	10	0	Instruments			1 2 6
Index sold	106	6	2	Furniture, Repairs, and Fittings			6 15 6
Mr. Alexander's Donation	10	0	0	Illustrations: Part II. Vol. 13 £78 0 6			
Mr. Kerr's Donation	50	0	0	Parts I. and II. Vol. 15 178 13 0			
Lord Bexley's Donation	2	0	0	Printing Part I. Vol. 15 . 150 3 7			
Sold out 300 <i>l</i> . at 95 <i>q</i> .	5	5	0	Part II. Vol. 15 . 113 15 4			
Advertisements in Journal, Vol. 15, Part II.	286	17	6	Miscellaneous Printing			28 13 6
From Bornean Church Committee, 6 months rent	12	9	0	Books, Maps, and Bindings			10 9 0
Journal (for Mr. Murray)	15	0	0	Royal Premium			46 10 0
Government and East India Company's Grants	0	8	0	Returned Subscriptions			5 3 0
	200	0	0	Sundries, including 8 <i>s</i> . received for Mr. Murray			1 8 9
				Balance in the Banker's hands			279 8 2
				of Petty Cash in Secretary's hands on 31st Dec. 1846			6 14 3
							£1,664 5 3

We, the undersigned, have examined the above accounts with the particulars thereof, and approve the same.

9th February, 1847.

ROBERT BIDDULPH, *Treasurer.*  
CHAS. R. D. BETHUNE, } *Auditors.*  
HENRY RAPER, }

*Royal Geographical Society.*

ESTIMATE FOR THE YEAR 1847.

*Dr.*

*Cr.*

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Balance in the Banker's hands on the 1st of January, 1847	279	8	2	Rent and Fixtures	.	.	263 13 0
Petty Cash in the hands of the Secretary	.	6	5 1	Salaries and Wages :—Secretary and Editor, 150 <i>l.</i> ; Clerk, 50 <i>l.</i> ; Collector, 21 <i>l.</i> ; Messenger and Housekeeper, 30 <i>l.</i>	.	.	251 0 0
Entrance of 20 Members at 3 <i>l.</i> each	.	60	0 0	Office Expenses, including Firing and Lights, Evening Meetings, Stationery, Postages, Carriage of Parcels, Freight, &c.	.	.	100 0 0
Subscriptions of 300 Members at 2 <i>l.</i>	.	600	0 0	Insurance and Advertisements	.	.	5 0 0
Arrears collected	.	50	0 0	Furniture, Repairs, and Fittings	.	.	20 0 0
Dividend on 2278 <i>l.</i> 4 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> 3½ per Cents. Reduced, minus				Journal	.	.	150 0 0
Income-Tax	.	71	17 8	Miscellaneous Printing	.	.	10 0 0
Royal Donation	.	52	10 0	Books and Bindings	.	.	30 0 0
Journals sold	.	50	0 0	Gold Medals	.	.	46 10 0
Index sold	.	5	0 0	Sundries	.	.	13 17 0
Bornean Church Mission	.	30	0 0				
		1,205	0 11				
Deduct Government and East India Company's Grants	.	200	0 0				
		£1,005	0 11				£890 0 0

WILLIAM HUMBLE, M.D.

*Acting Secretary.*